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T.L. Treadwell to W.L. Treadwell, 15 November 1849

Timmons Louis Treadwell

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Quid Leges, sine Moribus
vanas, Propiciunt!—

That Laws avail nothing without morals, The history of every age bears testimony. By perusing the musty pages of the history of nations, Republics and their political Institutions long since sunk into nothingness; we find, That wherever the feelings of the people were not consistent with the spirit of Laws to which they were subject, no good has ever accrued from those Laws however salutary. Moreover, That the most complete system of policy, which human wisdom has been able to devise, sinks into insignificance under the most rigid governors, unless transgressions and violations are frowned down by the morals of the people. For examples, we need not refer you to the Israelitish host, to the untamed Arabian, nor yet, to the sable sons of Ethiopia; but turn your attention to the constitution of the French Republic, as it was after the expulsion

of Louis The Sixteenth, and it will appear, That it contained some of The most salutary Laws devised by human ingenuity; But The morals of The people not being compatible with The tenor of Those Laws, it conduced to no purpose. or at least, attained no desirable end.

Nations like families are adapted some to one kind of government and others to an other; Therefore unless Laws are suited To The manners and customs, how can we hope for their effects to be wholesome?

How truly applicable Then was The interrogation of The Poet, who was endeavouring to correct The morals of his countrymen. by denouncing vice and applauding virtue! whose works are no less valuable an account of The variety of styles, Than The various hints and moral lessons, so arranged in this memorable panorama as to exhibit all That The wanton practices of ages could produce and The consequences entailed.

Nov 23. 1849

W. L. Oreadwell
Samar
Miss.

Quid Leges sine Morsibus
vanas Proferunt.

A Copy of The Com-
- position filed at
The end of The first
Session of The Junior
Year of 1849.

Written Nov. 23rd